SECRET

Tonight, Ashley and Frances Clark dined with us. Aside from his BBC appointment, Ashley is now the representative of the Banca Commerciale Italiana in England. This ought to be a rewarding position. I imagine he will pick up other directorships.

October 20, 1962 - Saturday

Had a haircut this morning, went to the office, and wrote the following letter to George Ball:

Virginia Surtees lunched with us.

October 21, 1962 - Sunday

I thought this would be a day of quietude. Such is not the case. I received a message from Washington early in the morning, asking whether I expected to be in London today and tomorrow. A couple of hours later, I began to get telephone calls and messages transmitted through three separate Embassy channels, indicating that something unusual was astir in Washington. Telegrams [redacted] brought out to me were not especially enlightening until supplemented by a conversation with Bill Tyler in the Department, who said I was to meet a military plane at twelve o'clock tonight, at Greenham Common Airport. There I was to be briefed on what would later be required of me, before the plane went on to Paris and other destinations. A telegram that followed mystified me slightly by naming as one of the passengers on the plane Dean Acheson.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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Archie Roosevelt and I motored out to the airfield, near Newbury, a trip of over two hours. This is a SAC base. The ship, one of the President's three jets, arrived ahead of time. Aboard it, amongst others, were Red Dowling, Dean Acheson, Sherman Kent, and Chet Cooper. They told us there had been a great commotion for several days in Washington, as a result of the discovery that the Soviets had been busily developing a missile potential in Cuba that would be useful for offensive